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PRESENTATION

OF THE

ROYAL AWARDS

To MR. F. T. GREGORY FOR HIS SUCCESSFUL EXPLORATIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA; AND TO MR. JOHN ARROWSMITH FOR THE VERY IMPORTANT SERVICES HE HAS RENDERED TO GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCE IN GENERAL, AND ESPECIALLY TO THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY FROM ITS FOUNDATION TO THE PRESENT TIME.

GOLD WATCHES, BEARING HONORARY INSCRIPTIONS, WERE ALSO AWARDED TO MR. WILLIAM LANDSBOROUGH, TO MR. JOHN M'KINLAY, AND TO MR. FREDERICK WALKER, FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL EXPLORATIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

THE PRESIDENT, after recapitulating the reasons assigned in the Report of the Council for the adjudication of the Founder's Medal to Mr. Frank T. Gregory, enlarged upon the importance to geographers as well as to colonists of the last researches of that gentleman, in which he had so successfully and with such precision explored a large well-watered and fertile region to the north-east of the colony of West Australia, and had thus won for himself a renown which placed him side by side with his distinguished brother, Mr. Augustus Gregory, the intrepid explorer of the northern and north-eastern shores of that great continent. He further remarked, that among Australian surveyors and astronomical observers, Mr. Frank Gregory had rendered himself conspicuous by collecting geological specimens; in doing which, on the occasion of one of his former journeys to the west and south-west of the settled country, he was the first to assign the true age of certain secondary formations, the existence of which in Australia had been previously unknown. Having particularly adverted to the foresight and sagacity displayed by Mr. Gregory in organising his last great expedition during his previous visit to England, the President spoke of the gratification he had himself experienced when, supported by the Council, he obtained from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a grant of one-half of the ways and means, without

which this great addition to our acquaintance with the shores and interior of North-Western Australia could not have been brought about.

Sir Roderick then expressed his regret that in consequence of the anniversary having occurred during the Whitsuntide recess, his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, and both the Under-Secretaries of State for the Colonies, were out of town, and therefore unable to attend that day to receive the Founder's Medal, which, however, he would transmit to Mr. Chichester Fortescue, M.P., who had taken a very active and friendly part in supporting the project of Mr. Frank Gregory, as recommended by the Royal Geographical Society, and who therefore, together with his chief the Duke of Newcastle, deserved the best thanks and acknowledgments of the Society.

Having handed the Founder's Medal to the Secretary, Mr. W. Spottiswoode,

The President then said that he never had been more gratified than when the Council adjudicated the Patron's Medal to his old and valued friend, Mr. John Arrowsmith, who would unquestionably have received the honour long ere this had he not himself, by his continual advocacy of the claims of distant travellers and surveyors of our colonies, rendered unavailing our endeavours to confer upon him a distinction so well merited. The perspicuity and fidelity with which Mr. John Arrowsmith had laboured for many years in analysing and comparing the often crude and hastily-constructed sketch maps which travellers brought home from distant lands, and the pains he took, irrespective of any pecuniary profit, to delineate such fresh knowledge on his maps, have justly rendered his name famous among practical geographers. "Let us say," added the President, "that there is a peculiar fitness in seizing the present opportunity of presenting the Patron's Medal to Mr. Arrowsmith, inasmuch as in consequence of the number of years he has served on the Council, he retires, for a year only I hope, from his seat at our board, and as his modesty has prevented him from attending to-day, I feel fully justified in saying that every one in this assembly rejoices with the Council and myself in seeing this recompense bestowed on so eminent and practical a geographer as John Arrowsmith."

Reverting to the consideration of the explorers of Australia, the President then said that in his Address he would dwell so emphatically on the value of the explorations of McDouall Stuart,

Landsborough, M'Kinlay, and Walker, that it was unnecessary he should now advert to their great merits.

The first-named gentleman had already received the highest honour the Royal Geographical Society had it in its power to bestow, not merely on account of his adventurous expeditions across the interior of Australia, but also because he had made accurate and therefore most valuable geographical determinations of latitude and longitude.

To Messrs. Landsborough, M'Kinlay, and Walker, the Council presented gold watches, with suitable inscriptions.

The President then addressed Mr. Landsborough in highly complimentary language, the purport of which is to be found in the Address, and that gentleman made an appropriate reply.

The watch of Mr. M'Kinlay was delivered to his companion, Mr. Thomas Middleton, who, as well as Mr. Landsborough, gave a graphic account of some of the peculiar characteristics of the countries traversed, and the difficulties they had to surmount.

The watch voted to Mr. Walker was confided to the care of the Secretary, for transmission to that gentleman.
